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so well known for his works and investigations on sound, treats of that subject; Professor Nipher of Washington University, St. Louis, gives the chapters on heat, light, and the principles of electricity; Professor Holman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology gives the introductory portions on matter and motion; and the applications of electricity and magnetism are handled by Mr. Crocker of the School of Electrical Engineering of Columbia College. It is needless to say that these are all men prominent in their several departments.

It would naturally be possible that an honest difference of opinion should exist as to the best way of presenting physical problems to young minds, but throughout this book we find evidences of an earnest purpose by competent men to do this according to their best judgment, and we believe the book is destined to do great good in our schools. The amount of apparatus required is not excessive, and the amounts of descriptive matter and experiment seem well balanced.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

In the *New England Magazine* for June there is an interesting illustrated article on the "Early Days of the First Telegraph Line," by Steven Vail.

"Not to the Swift" is the title of an entertaining novel from the pen of Lewis H. Watson, just published by the Welch, Fracker Company of this city (400 p., cloth, \$1.25). The scene is laid in

this country, about the time of the Rebellion, some of the plots connected with that event being woven into the fabric of the story, and one of the plots, at least, being given an entirely new and somewhat startling significance in the process of weaving.

— There has recently been issued by the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, a report on "The Species of *Epilobium* occurring North of Mexico," by Professor William Trelease.

— To the June *Atlantic* Professor George Herbert Palmer contributes "Reminiscences of Professor Sophocles," who was professor of Greek at Harvard University for nearly forty years, — a simple and Homeric figure, caring nothing for outward forms and fashions, and with his thoughts oftener in Arabia than Cambridge, drawn from a monastery to give himself up to what he called "the ambition of learning." College men will be also deeply interested in Mr. S. E. Winbolt's paper on "Rowing at Oxford." In the same number President D. C. Gilman of Johns Hopkins University has a paper on "The Study of Geography," and its place in the college course.

— The first of a series of descriptive and illustrated quarto memoirs on the *Vertebrata* of the Tertiary and Cretaceous rocks of the Canadian North-west Territory, prepared by Professor E. D. Cope of Philadelphia, has just been issued by the Geological Survey of Canada. It is exclusively devoted to a consideration of the species from the Lower Miocene deposits of the Cypress Hills in the district of Alberta, and consists of twenty-seven pages of

Publications received at Editor's Office,
May 20-26.

GEOLOGICAL Survey of New Jersey, Annual Report of the State Geologist for the Year 1890. Trenton, Murphy, pr. 305 p. 8°. **PROFITABLE Advertising.** Vol. I. No. 1. m. Boston, C. F. David. 32 p. 8°. \$1 per year. VERNON-HARCOURT, L. F. Achievements in Engineering during the Last Half Century. New York, Scribner. 311 p. 8°. \$1.75. WALLACE, A. R. Natural Selection and Tropical Nature. London and New York, Macmillan. 492 p. 8°. \$1.75. WATER Commissioners of the City of Taunton, Mass., Fifteenth Annual Report of the. Taunton, Hack, pr. 67 p. 8°. WEST Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Third Annual Report of the. Charleston, Donnelly, pr. 185 p. 8°.

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—John Burroughs's "Talk about Wild Flowers," in *St. Nicholas* for June, will show botanists how to make their science "un-

derstanded of the people," and may also suggest to them a few particulars upon which fuller information is desirable.

—The eyes of travellers and pleasure-seekers who are weary of the beaten paths are just now turned towards Alaska, which is said to possess some of the most marvellous scenery in the world. An article describing a trip to Alaska and the beauties of its mountains and valleys is contributed to *Lippincott's Magazine* for June, by Grace Peckham, M.D.

—The "Third Biennial Report of the California State Board of Forestry" contains a monograph, with thirty illustrations, of the cone-bearing trees of the north-west, including California. Persons desiring corrected copies can obtain them by sending 10 cents per copy (to cover expense of wrapping, postage, etc.) to J. G. Lemmon, botanist of the board, 1015 Clay Street, Oakland, Cal. A few copies remain of the previous report describing the "Pines of the Pacific Slope," with twenty-four illustrations.

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